Normalizing Peace

By Brian Bridges

More than five decades ago, then President Dwight D. Eisenhower asked Winston Churchill famously simply to “fight a war...[and] not a war-war.” Although Churchill is known now for his role in the Dunkirk evacuation of World War II, he was actually referring to a proposal his government had made in 1947. After the end of World War II, the United States and the United Kingdom, in the name of the “free world,” were considering military action against the People’s Republic of China, which had just ended the war with Japan. Churchill feared that this could lead to a war that would be just as destructive as World War II.

The Chinese have already told the Koreas of their willingness to be involved and are being suggested as a substitute security arrangement. If this slow and hard-fought process is continued — as previous past experience suggests that it will be — the two Koreas will find a way to cooperate and share responsibilities along the way. The first team that will leave the North Korean nuclear test site after last week’s visit to the country should include people from the two Koreas who understand the Korean Peninsula’s chemical, biological, and nuclear facilities in detail and who have the capability to coordinate the implementation of the demilitarization commitments that can underpin reunification between both South Korea and the United States and the South Korea and the United States about the North Korean Peninsula.

Finally, there is the military dimension. There is a real need for confidence-building measures that will help to learn from each other’s experience, that of German unification in 1990.

Similarly, Kim was not willing to accept the idea of a growing back troops from the Demilitarized Zone, but the agreement on establishing a buffer zone around the Han, which can be used in defense against conventional threats, was agreed to.

Four-power talks in the late 1990s went nowhere, but there is greater political will among all the participants. The Chinese have already told the Koreas of their willingness to be involved and are being suggested as a substitute security arrangement. If this slow and hard-fought process is continued — as previous past experience suggests that it will be — the two Koreas will find a way to cooperate and share responsibilities along the way. The first team that will leave the North Korean nuclear test site after last week’s visit to the country should include people from the two Koreas who understand the Korean Peninsula’s chemical, biological, and nuclear facilities in detail and who have the capability to coordinate the implementation of the demilitarization commitments that can underpin reunification between both South Korea and the United States and the South Korea and the United States about the North Korean Peninsula.

Second US-Nuke Team to Go to NK

WASHINGTON (Yonhap) — A second US-Nuclear team will head to North Korea this week to keep a schedule of negotiations on the dismantlement of its nuclear facilities, the US State Department said Wednesday. The second team, which arrived in Pyongyang on Saturday, will visit the Kaesong Industrial Complex, where an officials’ affairs office, has been in place since 2003, and will negotiate specific steps in implementing a six-nation agreement on the North’s nuclear program, as well as discuss other talks, such as the possible return of some North Korean civilians to South Korea.

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